



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INSURANCE RELEASES MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS REPORT

Nashville, TN.- The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance has submitted its first Medical Malpractice Claims Report to the Tennessee General Assembly.

The report is required by Public Chapter 902 as adopted in 2004. Public Chapter 902 requires insurance companies and uninsured health care professionals and facilities to report medical malpractice claims data to the Department over a four year period.

The report contains information regarding medical malpractice claims closed in 2004, and the amounts paid for such claims, if any.

"This is the first of four annual reports quantifying medical malpractice claims in Tennessee," said Paula Flowers, Commissioner for the Department of Commerce and Insurance. "We now have the data to fully analyze the costs and number of medical malpractice judgments and settlements occurring in the state on an annual basis."

Based upon the financial data reported to the Department, insurance companies wrote over \$327 million in medical malpractice premiums in Tennessee in 2004. According to the submitted medical malpractice data, Tennessee trial courts issued six medical malpractice judgments totaling \$1,958,648. In 2004, over 2,360 medical malpractice claims were settled by insurance companies and uninsured health care facilities for a combined cost of \$108,333,535 in damages. Eighty-one percent of all settlements resulted in no payment of damages and the remaining settlements resulted in an average payment of damages of \$243,994 per claim.

A copy of the report is available at the Department's website at www.tennessee.gov/commerce.

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